National Policy for Senior Citizen

719. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved an "Old Age Policy";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 1999 has been declared as the year of the old; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance of the said policy and the targets, if any, fixed for 1999, the year of the old?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A National Policy for Older Persons has been announced which seeks to promote the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other developmental needs.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The year 1999 has been declared as the International Year of Older Persons by the United Nations. While no targets have been fixed for 1999, under the National Policy the Government is committed to facilitate and coordinate efforts of Government departments, local bodies, NGOs, public spirited persons and others aimed at benefiting older persons. Under the Ministry's ongoing schemes, financial assistance is already being provided to voluntary organisations for construction and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for Older Persons.

Evaluation of Existing Welfare Schemes for SCs/STs

720. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to constitute a committee/ commission to evaluate the existing welfare measures and suggest new ones for the benefit of SCs and STs;

(b) whether a delegation has met the P.M. recently bringing to his notice certain problems concerning them; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) It has been decided to set up a 11 member Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribe Commission under Article 339(1) of the Constitution to examine the existing Tribal Sub Plan strategy and to suggest alternative arrangements if necessary.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

Adoption of Destitute Children

721. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of destitute children adopted in India since 1997;

(b) the reasons for low adoption; and

(c) Government's proposal for proper adoption laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Central Adoption Resource Agency,

working under this Ministry does not maintain the records of the total number of destitute children adopted in India.

(c) Adoption/Guardianship in India is governed by Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 and Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के बेरोजगार युवकों को ऋण दिया जाना

722. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के बेरोजगार युवकों को ऋण उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोई नई स्वरोजगार योजना चालू करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उन्हें ऋण तथा राजसहायता उपलब्ध कराने के लिए क्या मापदण्ड निर्धारित करने का प्रस्ताव है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Report of NMC on communal riots

723. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased be state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Commission has submitted its recommendation on the Gujarat incidents during August, 1998;

(b) if so, what are recommendations submitted by the Commission;

(c) whether Government have given due consideration to those recommendations to control the communal riots in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being taken by Government to deal with such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Minorities has made 10 statutory recommendations to the Government of Gujarat under Section (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

(c) and (d) The Government has brought these recommendations to the notice of the State Government of Gujarat for necessary action. As per provisions of the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992, the State Government of Gujarat is required to place the action taken report before the State Legislature.

AIMS and object of NMFDC

724. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objects of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (NMFDC);

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the arrangements made by the NMFDC for achieving its aims and objects;

(c) if not, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the functioning of the NMFDC; and

(d) the criteria for sanctioning of loan (rate of interest/period of repayment) and the Projects/Schemes sanctioned, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was set up on 30th September, 1994 as a Company not for profit under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 with the objective to provide concessional finance forself-em-